Arts V. 1.

THE SPEECH OF Mr. *JACOB ILIVE*

To His BRETHREN the

MASTER-PRINTERS:

On the great Utility of the

ART of PRINTING,

At a GENERAL MEETING,

Wedneſday, the 18th of *July*, 1750.

LONDON:

Printed, at the Deſire of the GENTLEMEN preſent.

GENTLEMEN,

IT is Part of the Duty of the *Office* * and *Dignity*, I this Day ſuſtain among You, to *congratulate* You on Your preſent Convention. Public Aſſociation and Feſtivity are *Tokens* of Brotherly Love and Friendſhip; and this ACT of *Ours* is the greateſt mutual SALVE TU QUOQUE, we are capable of.

* STEWARD.

'Tis with great Pleaſure I behold among You, that great *Ornament* and *Adorner* † of Our Art, whom We and Our Poſterity ſhall always *revere*; as *He* has been *greatly* inſtrumental, in Conjunction with *Us*, in bringing *the ſame* nearer Perfection, and which muſt be an everlaſting *Honour* to Us, and to this Kingdom.

As to the *Art* and *Myſtery* we are engag'd in, it may with great Veracity be affirmed, that there is no Art, Science, or Profeſſion in the World, but what owes its *Origin*, at leaſt its *Progreſs* and preſent *Perfection*, to the free Exerciſe of the *Art of* Printing. Where is the Man, be he *Divine*, *Aſtronomer*, *Mathematician*, *Lawyer*, *Phyſician*, or what elſe, who is not beholden to Us?

Shall we mention *Religion?* It is plain from the many pious and good Books, Comments, Expoſitions, Manuals, and the like, the *Preſs* daily and hourly, as it were, exhibits to the World, that we are almoſt become the *ſole* Promoters thereof;

* William Caslon, *Eſq*;

thereof; at leaſt this we may ſay, that we are, in this degenerate Age, one of its *main Supports.*

DOES the PRINCE ſpeak from the Throne? It is *We* who eccho his Words to *all* his Subjects, and proclaim them to *every* diſtant Nation.

DOES the *Architect* ſay, he is not beholden to *Us?* We can with Juſtice let him know, that it is owing to our *Art*, that the *Cave* has ariſen to a *Houſe*, the *Dungeon* to a *Palace*, and the *Grove* to a ſtately and magnificent *Temple.*

WILL the *Stateſman* and *Politician* ſay, they ſtand in no Need of Our *Myſtery*, when it is beyond Contradiction Fact, that we teach them the *Secrets* and *Arcana* of Government; and that they are many times more oblig'd to *Us* than to their *Bullets* and *Gunpowder*, the *roaring Cannon*, and the *noiſy Din* of War.

ARE the BEAUTIFUL PART of the *Creation* indebted to *Us?* It is we who form their Minds, and teach them tender Love; it is we who render them *polite*, agreeable to *Society*, a Pleaſure to themſelves, and the *Delight* of all Men.

RE-

REFLECTING on the Extenſive Uſefulneſs of this Our *Art* to convey the Knowledge of Things and Occurrences to diſtant Nations, and to lateſt Poſterity, made Holy JOB cry out in that pathetic Expreſſion of His: *O that my Caſe was printed in a Book!*

AS to future Diſcoveries in Art and Nature, this our *Science* muſt be acknowledg'd as a true and real STEPMOTHER; and without the leaſt Arrogance we may venture to affirm, that if ever the *Longitude* be found out, it will, it muſt be *alone* owing to Us.

MANY have been the Attempts to reſtrain the *Liberty* of the PRESS, but none have hitherto ſucceeded, and it is greatly to be hoped never will; but if it ſhould ever be reſtrain'd, it ought, it muſt be look'd on by all wiſe and good Men, as one of the *greateſt Evils* that can poſſibly befall a free and brave People.

WHEN I conſider the general Utility of this our truly *Teutonic* ART, I cannot help ſaying, What great Pity it is, that

that the *Profeſſors* do not meet with an *adequate Encouragement*, ſuitable to the Labour and Pains they take in the Exerciſe of it; but this verifies the old Proverb, *That true Merit ſeldom or never meets with its Reward:* And we may conclude, from the preſent Situation of Affairs, that in *Our Caſe* it never CAN, nor ever WILL.

F I N I S.